

Ad-hoc Agricultural Assessment Work Group

7500 Odawa Circle, Harbor Springs, MI 49740

Meeting Minutes December 20, 2012 NRD Conference Room

1. The meeting was called to order at 10am.
2. Alan Proctor, Doug Craven, John Keshick, Kevin Gasco and Michele Keshick were present. Renee Dillard and Regina Brubaker-Carver absent.
3. Agenda – no action taken
4. Minutes – November 30, 2012 meeting minutes reviewed and corrected.
5. Reports on Action Items
 - a. GSA Program - Kevin Gasco has not looked into this to date.
 - b. Farm Operation Plan and Budget – AP and DC December 18, 2012 teleconference call with Wendolyn Wieland of MSU. Verbal report from DC regarding topics of discussion, farming sustainability, start up costs, product selection, niche markets and structure of farm. Operational plan that could be tailored to specific LTBB needs. Wendolyn to email DC and AP internet resources and client agreement for services.
 - c. Building Codes – JK and KG to organize discussions with LTBB Executive and Planning, no action taken to date.
 - d. Youth Group – RG and MK to contact Kristy Dayson to talk about above topics, no action taken to date.
 - e. Parcel 54 House tour by AAWG – JK to coordinate tour of structure for January 7, 2013. AP, Bryan Gillett and Kevin Hurrell toured Parcel 54 property 120712, Executive Due Diligence report in process.
 - f. MSU Apprenticeship Program – RG to investigate, no action taken to date.
6. Old Business
 - a. Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program (FRTEP) Updates – Relationship Building for Better Partnerships: Anishnaabe Tribes & MSUE sessions scheduled for January 8, February 5 and February 28, 2013 at LTBB Administration Building. AP to send out calendar appointments to group.
 - b. Role of AAWG & Strategic Planning – After tour of Parcel 54 structure, a memo to Land and Reservation should be created from AAWG outlining group's pros and cons for the property.
 - c.
7. New Business
 - a. Youth 4H Involvement – JK, verbal report from 4H discussions with other tribes during Las Vegas Inter-Tribal Agricultural Meeting (attendance paid for by FRTEP), beginning 4H with some western tribes started very slowly,

Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians

Prepared by Alan Proctor, 01-04-13

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only 1-2 enrolled first couple years, year 3 had 10 enrolled and by fourth year 20. Eventually, there were enough candidates that a Tribal Fair could be held, complete with amusement rides, midway and kids selling their own livestock at auction. Patience needs to be exercised with any implementation of a 4H plan. DC has been attempting to start LTBB 4H involvement, is reviewing policy and procedure (required meeting structure) set forth by county 4H. DC further states that time commitments with current 4H structure places a great time constraint on kids activities such as sports and further states that this creates a barrier to getting kids not already living in an agricultural lifestyle (farming family) involved. JK has a questionnaire that he will bring to the next meeting that addresses commitment level concerns with the 4H program.

- b. JK, verbal report on DNA manipulation, breeding livestock to remove observed defects and promote preferable characteristics. 3 major beef companies are currently working with ranchers who do this. Swine, chicken and goats also included.
- c. JK, discussion on beginnings of Suquamish Tribe's fish market. Slow beginnings with independent interest running operations, no profitability. Tribal Chairman finally took over operations and has made it into an international distributor of product. Supports 'buy tribal' mantra. Further discussion on Red Lake perch and walleye farms and distribution of product to casino. DC reports on Red Lake presentations on farming operations at Native American Fish and Wildlife conference.
- d. JK, other examples of agricultural related business start-ups include two women from Arizona who began with a hoop house, garden and commercial kitchen began to process surplus harvest for distribution. Has since progressed in to beef cattle with distributions within a 100 mile range. In addition to finished product, mobile business classes are offered along with grants assistance. Another example deals with buffalo product, started by a woman with one initial customer and vacuum packed meat. This has grown into processing 20-30 head of buffalo per year with a 50 mile delivery range. In addition to tribal, many customers are non-tribal, the healthier nature of buffalo product making it more marketable. "Oklahoma Tatonka Buffalo Product"

8. Action Items

- a. JK – call Kim to organize walk thru if Parcel 54 house and barns.
- b. MK – will try to get planting plan from Berg Farms outlining amount of needed acreage per crop and types, centering on the Three Sisters.
- c. AAWG to generate a memo outlining groups recommendations after Parcel 54 walk thru.

9. Next Meeting – January 22, 2013 - 10am LTBB NRD Conference Room .

10. Adjournment